Working of National Commission for SC and ST

*555. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry agrees that the very purpose of constitutional body appointed under Article 338 (National Commission for SC and ST) is defeated due to inefficient functioning and division of the Commission into two;

(b) when was the last report of the above Commission placed before Parliament; and

(c) what is the status of these two Commissions as on date?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Sixth Report for 1999-2000 and 2000-01 (combined) was laid on the Tables of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 23.12.2004 and 20.12.2004 respectively.

(c) Both the Commission are Constitutional bodies.

Change in royalty regime

*556. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether change in the royalty regime is proposed in the New Mining Policy;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it would put extra burden on steel companies; and

(d) if so, in what way Government propose to take balancing steps?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) the issue of royalty fixation and rates is *inter-alia* one of the items in the proposed National Mineral Policy, 2007 under consideration of the Central Government.